

*dromus savannarum**, and *Eupsychortyx cristatus*†. These facts are very interesting and should be studied more thoroughly: they seem to point to the theory that the Virgin Islands and the islands of Bonaire and Curaçao‡ were formerly connected in some way, or that they are of the same geological age, and not of the same age as the Windward Islands. Perhaps there was once a line of islands (similar to that of the Lesser Antilles) reaching from St. Thomas through "Los Aves," or the Bird Island, by way of Blanca, Orchilla, Grand Cay, Los Roques, and the second group called "Los Aves," to Bonaire and Curaçao.

(3) The avifaunas of the three islands are generally very similar, but some interesting differences are obvious. Bonaire has most species of West-Indian origin, while Aruba has most continental forms, as would be expected from their situation.

(4) The facts brought to light through my little collection should induce ornithologists to explore the other small islands on the Venezuelan coast, such as Grand Cay, Orchilla, Blanca, and Margarita.

XXX.—*On the Collection of Raptorial Birds in the Norwich Museum.* By J. H. GURNEY.

THE Raptorial Collection in the Norfolk and Norwich Museum will before long be transferred to Norwich Castle, together with the rest of the treasures in the Museum, and handed over to the Corporation. In this ancient building,

* *Ammodromus savannarum* is not found in the Lesser Antilles, but occurs in Porto Rico, very near to St. Thomas. See Cory, Cat. W. Ind. B. p. 112.

† It is said that, although *E. sonnini* occurs on St. Thomas, it has been introduced from Venezuela (cf. Cassin, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1860, p. 378; Newton, Ibis, 1860, p. 308; and Berl. J. f. O. 1892, p. 100). If this is correct, no weight should be attached to the occurrence of a different species (*E. cristatus*) in the Curaçao group.

‡ To Aruba these species may have been brought by the trade-wind from the other two islands.

which has been prepared for the reception of the Museum at a cost of £17,000, there will be plenty of room. There the Hawks and Owls will be arranged according to my father's method, and in accordance also with the scheme submitted by Mr. Sclater to the Trustees in June 1891*.

At present the specimens are, as has been pointed out by Mr. Sclater, a good deal crowded, and it is not easy for the eye to follow the arrangement (commencing in the lobby with the Secretary-bird and ending in the "Owl Room" with the Harriers) adopted for the 390 species represented in the Museum, especially as in many cases there are seven or eight mounted specimens of the same species. My father's principal object was to illustrate geographical distribution, and he attached more importance to this than to the modern minute subdivision of species. This is well shown in the series of Peregrine Falcons, Barn Owls, and Scops Owls.

Among the additions to the Raptorial Collection at Norwich since my father's death, four represent species new to the collection—namely, *Baza bismarcki*, *Leucopternis semiplumbea*, *Scelopisizias cenchroides*, and *Scops elegans*,—all of which would have been very acceptable to him, more particularly the second and the fourth. Perhaps a few words about these additions will not be out of place.

Dr. A. B. Meyer, of Dresden, sent us the specimen of *Baza bismarcki*, from New Britain. It is an adult, killed April 10th, 1891, on Gazelle Island (lat. 4°, long. 152°). On comparing it with our *B. gurneyi*, from Russell Island in the Solomon group (P. Z. S. 1888, p. 188), presented by Canon Tristram, it will be seen that it is not so white under the wing, neither has it the white thighs and underparts of *B. gurneyi*. Count Salvadori considers *B. bismarcki* to be intermediate between *B. reinwardti*, the form found in New Guinea, and *B. gurneyi* (Orn. Pap., App. 1889, p. 13). He says:—"This is a form of *B. reinwardti* which, like *B. gurneyi*

* Report to the Trustees of the Norwich Castle Museum and to the Committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Museums on the Collections of the Museum, and on the best mode of arranging them in the new buildings. By P. L. Sclater, F.R.S. Norwich, June 1891.

of the Solomon Islands, is distinguished by the clear underparts." The subject has been further discussed in my father's 'List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey,' p. 154, and by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe in Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea,' where the specific name of *bismarcki* was first proposed.

Of *Baza reinwardti* (Müll. & Schleg.) we have seventeen specimens, collected by Beccari, Linden, Fahn, Bruijn, Wallace, and others,—from Salawati, Ceram, Dorey, Amberbaki, and Waigiou. Of these localities three are in Dutch New Guinea, and Ceram and Waigiou are close by*.

Dr. Meyer holds out hopes of sending us *Megatriorchis doriae* (referred by Dr. Sharpe to the Australian genus *Erythrotriorchis*), of which he has recently obtained one for Dresden. I believe my father was in communication with Sir Wm. Macgregor about *M. doriae* shortly before his death, and I have since made application through Mr. H. Anson to obtain this very desirable acquisition.

We have received from Mr. G. K. Cherric, of Costa Rica, a skin of *Leucopternis semiplumbea*, labelled "January the 3rd, 1890," and apparently adult, as it has only one caudal band. It agrees well with the description in the 'British Museum Catalogue' (i. p. 220), except that it falls short of the measurements there given, particularly in the length of the tail, which is 4·8 instead of 7·8 inches. This specimen,

* Since the above was written I have received from Mr. T. A. Hauxwell, Conservator of Forests in Burma, a small box of Accipitres, and among them one new to the Museum—*Baza sumatrensis* (Lafr.). It is marked as shot at Meplè, Thaungyin Valley, January 1891, and is in immature plumage. As the stripe on the chin is just apparent, it is probably a little older than the one figured by Dr. Sharpe (Cat. of Birds, i. pl. xi.), and though marked a "female," would, from the following measurements, seem to be a male—crest 2·4 inches, wing 11·5, tarsus 1·3, culmen 1·4, tail 8. The tail has four dark bands. My father notes that an example from Malacca, sent to him from Brussels for examination, measured—crest 2·5 inches, wing 14, tarsus 1·8. The range of *B. sumatrensis* extends from Sikhim to Sumatra. Its nearest ally is *B. ceylonensis*, Legge, which is decidedly smaller, judging from our three specimens, and this Mr. Hume confirms ('Stray Feathers,' 1876, p. 247, note).

The series at Norwich now includes all the Bazas except *B. leucopais* and *B. magnirostris* of the Philippines.

which was shot in Costa Rica, had, when killed, yellow legs and a pale orange eye, and its stomach contained the remains of a bird. Its back is not so brown as that of *L. superciliaris*. Mr. Lawrence, the describer of this rare bird, writes me that he has seen only three specimens.

We have still to get *Leucopternis princeps* (figured by Sclater, P. Z. S. 1865, pl. xxiv.), *L. plumbea* (figured, Ibis, 1872, p. 239), and *L. occidentalis*, described by Mr. Salvin, to complete the series. Mr. Cherrie has promised to obtain for us the first and last, if possible.

The Museum has skins of *L. albicollis* (Latham) from Mexico, Quito (*Jameson*), Trinidad, and British Guiana, and examples of *L. schistacea* from Bolivia, the Upper Amazons (two collected by Bates), Yquitos (three), Panama (two), and Samiria in Peru. Of *L. schistacea* my father remarks that Taczanowski, in his 'Orn. du Pérou' (i. p. 109), gives the iris as dark brown, but that three collectors have marked examples in the Norwich Museum as having yellow eyes—J. H. G. (*MS.*).

Shortly after my father's death Professor Menzbier sent the Museum a pair of Severtzoff's *Scelopspizias cenchroides* from Turkestan. In 'The Ibis' for 1875 (p. 480, note) it is stated that before he died Dr. Severtzoff admitted that *S. cenchroides* was only a large form of *S. badius*, but in 1884 my father allowed it as a subspecies in his 'List.' *S. cenchroides* is figured in Menzbier's 'Ornithology of Turkestan,' plate iii., where the profusion of cross-bars is shown. We already had Indian specimens of *S. badius* which in size and tint correspond with Severtzoff's *S. cenchroides*, but it is interesting to have got others guaranteed by Prof. Menzbier, whose two skins are labelled "Gjarman" and "Sandych-Kagan."

My father limited the genus *Scelopspizias* to eight species and five subspecies. Perhaps an enumeration of the specimens in the Norwich Museum may not be out of place, as between 1884 and 1890 he added many, but struck out *S. castanilius* (Bp.) as being doubtfully distinct from *S. unduliventer* (Rüpp.).

List of Specimens of Sceloporzias in the Norwich Museum.

<i>S. francesi</i>	Madagascar.	16
<i>S. pusillus</i>	Comoro Islands.	5
<i>S. brutus</i>	"	1
<i>S. polyzonoides</i>	South Africa.	17
<i>S. badius</i>	India	27
<i>S. poliopsis</i>	Siam.	7
<i>S. cenchroides</i>	Turkestan.	2
<i>S. sphenurus</i>	Africa.	15
<i>S. brevipes</i>	Asia Minor.	12
<i>S. tachiro</i>	Africa.	14
<i>S. unduliventer</i>	Abyssinia.	11
<i>S. toussenelii</i>	Gaboon.	3

More specimens of *S. brutus* are wanted. Our example, which in the lapse of years appears to have faded, is labelled "Yeux jaunes, bec bleuâtre d'indigo, pattes jaunes. ♀ tuée ce 6 Juin, 1864."

To the liberality of Mr. Henry Seebohm the Museum is indebted for an addition to the collection of Owls in the shape of an example of *Scops elegans* (Cassin), the *S. semitorques* of Seebohm, from the Loo-Choo Islands, between Formosa and Japan (but not the *S. semitorques* of Temminck and Schlegel, of which we already possessed a large series). It was obtained by the late Mr. Pryer in January 1887, and is the same as was described by my father in 'The Ibis,' 1889 (p. 303). Only five examples are known to Mr. Seebohm (P. Z. S. 1890, p. 345), including the two which Stejneger described. We still require examples of several new subspecies of *Scops* and of *S. insularis* (Tristr.).

Other additions have been made, such as *Ninox dimorpha* (Salvadori) from Jobie Island, north of New Guinea, which we already had under the generic name of *Hieroglaux*, and *Æsalon suckleyi*, from British Columbia, presented by Mr. A. C. Brooks as a companion to one he gave before. *Æ. suckleyi* (Ridgway) is a dark race and *Æ. richardsoni* a pale race of *Æ. columbarius*. My father says he had not seen *Æ. richardsoni* (when writing his "Notes on the Merlins," Ibis, 1882, p. 161), though the Museum contained two young birds from Monterey which he afterwards

decided to belong to this form. We have now five, and sixteen of *Æ. columbarius*.

We have also had the gift of a nestling *Buteo swainsoni* obtained at Assiniboia in Canada by Mr. D. L. Thorpe. Its stomach contained grasshoppers and mice. It was taken with two others from a nest in a large prickly bush 12 feet from the ground, and presented by Mr. Thorpe (cf. 'Zoologist,' 1893, p. 53).

The Buzzards of the New World seem to be still in rather an unsettled state as to what are species and what are varieties. I believe I am right in saying that *Buteo pæcilo-chrous* from Ecuador, coming most closely to *B. erythronotus* (Ibis, 1879, p. 176), stands good at present, and that there are two geographical races of *B. borealis*, viz.: *B. socorroensis*, Ridgway (which takes its name from the island to which it is peculiar), and the light-coloured *B. krideri*, Hoopes, inhabiting that part of North America which extends from Texas to Minnesota. If examples of either of these are to be found in any collection in England, it is probably only in the National Collection, for apparently we have none at Norwich, though my father's series of American Buzzards is not a small one.

A skin of *B. lucasanus* with a very light tail was lately offered, but not purchased, as Mr. Ridgway, who named it, writes to say the species is untenable. My father, up to 1884, had never seen this North-American form. The Museum has only one example of *B. borealis harlani* (cf. 'Auk,' 1890, p. 205), one of *B. costaricensis*, and two of *B. abbreviatus*. Of *B. alleni*, a subspecies of *B. lineatus* found in Florida, we have a good series of ten, and want no more.

We have the genus *Falco*, restricted in my father's 'List' to seven species and six subspecies, well represented, including a pair of very dark *F. pealei*, Ridgway, from the Kurile Islands, in the North Pacific. These birds, which he obtained in June 1884, immediately after his 'List' was published, are darkest on the breast and belly and under the wings. They are both immature and are labelled as shot in September 1881.

The great Condor from Chili and the Straits of Magellan, *Sarcorhamphus magellanicus* (Shaw), must, if possible, be obtained some day. My father was doubtful about *S. magellanicus*, and was still less of a believer in the permanently brown Condor which has received the name *S. æquatorialis*. Of one alluded to in his 'List' (which is figured in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, pl. xxxv.) he notes :—"The specimen figured was, I think, certainly a young female of the common species ; it died about June 1885, before which time the ruff had begun to show puffs of white down. Dark grey feathers began to appear on the mantle, and two light grey feathers appeared amongst the greater wing-coverts. The irides were beginning to assume a tinge of garnet-red."—J. H. G. (MS.). After examining this Condor on the 14th of February, 1885, he writes :—"The irides are now decidedly garnet-coloured, though not as brightly so as in the adult female Condor, and all the parts which are white in the latter have become sensibly paler, many of the feathers being tinged with yellowish white disposed more or less in patches." A description of the same bird was given him by Mr. J. G. Goodchild the following April, and soon after it died. A sketch by Mr. Goodchild sent by him to my father in July 1884 shows the white down of the ruff, but not the grey feathers in the wing, which must have been assumed later. It was nine years old or more when it died, and that was the same age to which the one in the Central Park Menagerie, New York, lived ('Auk,' 1885, p. 170).

Of the Common Condor the Museum has a fine adult pair, two young birds, and an egg.

Turning again to the Old World, there is, perhaps, nothing our Committee would be better pleased to obtain than a skin of *Tinnunculus alopex* of Senmaar, Kordofan, and the Blue Nile. Other African birds which the Museum requires from the Dark Continent, now being opened up by so many explorers, are *Melierax poliopterus*, Cabanis, from Somaliland, and *Machærihamphus revoili*, Oustalet, from the same country. The latter is stated by the French naturalist who described it to resemble *M. anderssoni* in its wings and tail, and *M. alcinus*

in its crest and throat, but only the type is at present known. It is scarcely probable that such a very distinct genus as *Machæirhamphus* (*Stringonyx*) should consist of only two species, and those two found in different parts of the world.

The Museum requires *Melieræ mechowii*, Cabanis, if it is distinct. My father includes it in his 'List' with a query, and a star indicating that he had not seen it. In a MS. note he adds:—"Mr. Sharpe thinks not distinct from *M. polyzonus* (Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. xvii. p. 437), but see as to its distinctness Bocage, J. Sci. Lisboa, xxxiv. pp. 65, 67." Dr. Sharpe's remark is that in twelve examples in the British Museum "every gradation between a uniform and a closely-barred wing can be found."

The other species of *Melieræ*—*M. canorus*, *M. polyzonus*, *M. gabar*, and *M. niger*—are largely represented in the Museum by specimens from Ayres and other African collectors, and of *M. canorus* (= *M. musicus* (Daudin)) we have three eggs taken by Lucas at Rustenburg in the Transvaal.

As supplementary to his remarks on the colour of the eye in *Melieræ* (cf. Ibis, 1875, p. 235), my father records (MS. notes) that in July 1884 an adult *M. musicus* at the Zoological Society's Gardens had "dull cherry irides," that two years later they were "reddish orange," and that an adult *M. polyzonus* at the Gardens had the irides of "a rich but not dark hazel."

Accipiter buettikoferi has been described by Dr. Sharpe from three adult Sparrow-Hawks obtained in Liberia, on the coast of Guinea, assigned at first to *A. hartlaubi*, from which they differ in not having white marks on the centre tail-feathers and in having the thighs grey. Subsequently two others presented the same coloration (Büttikofer, Notes Leyden Mus. xi. p. 115, 1889). It does not appear that the Norwich Museum has got *A. buettikoferi*, but it has two adults of *A. hartlaubi* (from Bissao and Gaboon) which have grey thighs, and their tails when spread show some white spots. Nearly allied to *Accipiter hartlaubi* (as to the possible identity of which with *A. minullus* my father refers to

'Notes Leyden Mus.' vii. p. 153), but larger, is the *A. rufiventris*, Smith, at present standing in the Museum under the name of *A. exilis* (Temm.). *A. exilis* my father held to be a synonym of *A. hartlaubi* in immature plumage, but *A. hartlaubi*, *A. minullus*, and *A. erythropus* (Hartlaub) stand separated in the Museum. Of the little *A. minullus* we have 23 specimens, but only one of *A. erythropus*, obtained through Carfrae in 1858.

Of *A. rufiventris* we have twelve specimens from Natal, Lydenburg, King William's Town, Shoa, Transvaal, &c. In confirmation of a theory advanced in 'The Ibis' for 1889 (p. 572), that species will sometimes throw out a "sport" resembling other species, it may be mentioned that adult males of our British Sparrow-Hawk (*A. nisus*) occasionally vary, so as to resemble *A. rufiventris*, in having the breast and underparts a clear rufous without any transverse bands at all. Such a bird, shot in Norfolk, I saw some years ago at Mr. Gunn's shop, and another was obtained by Mr. Henry Doubleday ('Zoologist,' 1875, p. 4429). But the best example of this plain-chested variety was shot in Northumberland and is in the Newcastle Museum.

When my father published his 'List' he had not seen *Microhierax sinensis*, Sharpe, figured by David and Oustalet under the name of *M. chinensis*, and he never got one for the Museum; but he was shown one in 1887 by Mr. Styan killed at Foochow (*cf.* Ibis, 1887, pp. 234, 470), and he notes that "it seemed the largest of the genus, in coloration very like *M. melanoleucus*." The localities given for it by David are the province of Kiangsi, in the centre of Southern China, and Nankin. This species differs from *M. melanoleucus* in having a white spot at the back of the neck, but Mr. Seebohm doubts this being a specific difference (P. Z. S. 1890, p. 345). Besides *M. sinensis* we require also *M. melanoleucus*.

Of *Microhierax fringillarius* (Drap.) the Museum has a large series from Singapore, Banjarmasin, Baram, Batavia, and Sumatra.

Of *M. erythrogenys* (Vigors) we have four from Mindanao

and other islands in the Philippines. Of *M. latifrons*, Sharpe, first discriminated by my father, we have one said to have been killed in the Nicobar Islands, and two from Lawas and Sandakan in Borneo.

Henicopernis infuscata, Gurney, ought not to find a place among the desiderata at Norwich, for the type collected by Lieut. Richards in New Britain, July 9th, 1879, was given to the Museum by Canon Tristram in 1890. It was, however, unaccountably lost. It is believed that it was sent by mistake along with some of my father's birds from Natal to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, and that it is somewhere among the thousands of bird-skins in the National Collection. It is much darker than *H. longicauda* (Garnot) of New Guinea, of which the Museum has five specimens, two of them obtained by Mr. Wallace, in Mysol and Dorey. The fellow-specimen of *H. infuscata*, which Mr. Layard gave to Canon Tristram afterwards, is at Durham still.

In 'The Ibis' for 1891, p. 305, Dr. Steere has described, or restated the description of, a new Harrier to be called *Circus philippensis*, but does not say wherein it differs from *C. melanoleucus*, the plumages of which are given at length by my father (Ibis, 1875, pp. 225-8). If *C. philippensis* stands, a specimen is desirable; but Mr. Everett doubts its validity. To Mr. Everett my father was indebted for eight examples of *Circus spilonotus* from Borneo collected at Papar and Labuan, and there is in the Museum an adult male, which he obtained from Gould, killed near Manilla in the Philippines. We have four specimens of Swinhoe's from Amoy and Formosa, a young male collected by Severtzoff in Turkestan, and a female nearly adult from Japan. The sexes are alike (Ibis, 1889, p. 256).

Other species of the genus *Circus* are well represented in the Museum, but of *C. maillardi* (Verreaux), the Bourbon Harrier, we have no adult. The series of *C. macrosceles*, Newton, having been considerably increased since the 'List' was published, it may be worth giving an enumeration of them.

List of Specimens of Circus macroscelus in the Norwich Museum.

Type specimen.

♂ immature ..	Madagascar, Sept. 22, 1862.	Sir E. Newton.
♂ adult.....	Lake Hasy, Madagascar.	Rev. J. Wills.
♀ adult.....	do. do.	do.
♂ ? „	do. do.	do.
♀ „	Joanna, Comoro Islands (<i>cf.</i> Ibis, 1876, p. 278).	Per G. A. Frank.
♂ nearly adult ..	do.	do.
♂ adult.....	do.	Dr. Dickinson.
♂ „	do.	Sir E. Newton.
♂ nearly adult..	Madagascar (Ibis, 1889, p. 397).	Rev. J. Wills.
♂ „ ..	do.	do.

My father was of opinion that *Circus humbloti* is a synonym of *C. macroscelus*, but later researches have decided that it is a good species (A. Milne-Edwards and E. Oustalet, N. Arch. Mus. x. p. 234).

Spilornis panayensis, another discovery of Dr. Steere, inhabits Panay and Negros in the Philippine Islands (Ibis, 1891, p. 305), and is distinguished from *S. holospilus* by its small size and pale colouring. Of the latter there are two skins in the Museum obtained by Mr. A. H. Everett at Zamboanga, in Mindanao, and South Leyte, which are in the south part of the Philippine group, and these are an inch less in the wing than four other specimens of *S. holospilus* at Norwich, but as they are not any paler I conclude they cannot be referred to Dr. Steere's new species. Of *Spilornis minimus*, Hume, considered a well-marked species (*cf.* Ibis, 1878, p. 101), we have only one, from Trinket, in the Nicobar Islands. Of *S. sulaensis* we have two, a male and a female, collected by Mr. Wallace in Sula Island, and recently lent to Dr. Meyer for his forthcoming work on the birds of Celebes. Of *S. davisoni*, Hume, and *S. bido* (Horsfield) the Museum has only two apiece, the former from Penang, the latter from Java. Of the remaining seven species which compose the genus we have plenty, but should value additional specimens if in plumages not at present represented.

My father was of opinion that *Astur cruentus*, Gould, is a

synonym of *Urospizias approximans* ('List of D. B. of Prey,' p. 38), though Gould's plate is more like *U. torquata*, but Mr. Ramsay tells me the colouring of the plate is misleading. Mr. W. Burton, who obtained what he considers to be *Astur cruentus* in North-west Australia, says it is much larger than *U. torquata*, in support of which statement he has favoured me with a series of measurements taken by the late Mr. Bower. Mr. Ramsay has received authentic specimens from Derby (Tab. List, 1888, p. 1). Mr. Ramsay gives "Port Essington to Derby and inland to Kimberley" as the habitat in the supplement to 'The Australian Accipitres,' 1890, p. 5. He also refers to the subject in the Proceedings of Linn. Soc. of N. S. W. (iii. p. 174). As recently as August 1892 he writes that he is convinced that *A. cruentus* is a distinct species, but adds that it should be compared closely with the Timor bird. We have in the Museum an example from the Swan River of a *Urospizias* which, from the redness of its underparts, my father thought might be Gould's *U. cruenta*, but until we get more specimens *Astur cruentus* must rank among our desiderata.

Seven new species of *Urospizias* have been described since my father's 'List' was published, not counting *U. sharpii*, Ramsay, making this the largest genus of the subfamily *Accipitrinæ*, which in his arrangement includes fourteen genera and two subgenera.

Of *Astur hensti*, Schlegel, we have a very good example, obtained in Madagascar by Mr. Wills, but none of *A. moreli*, Pollen, and none of *A. candidissimus*, which is a pale race of *A. palumbarius* existing in Kamtschatka. Its describer, Dybowski, calls it "une forme particulière." The following are mentioned in Menzbier's 'Orn. Geogr. of Russia' as subspecies of the Goshawk: *Astur palumbarius albidus*, *A. palumbarius schevedowi*, and *A. palumbarius buteoides*. The first of these my father considered equal to *A. candidissimus*, concerning which he remarks that a specimen in the Natural History Museum "seemed only to be a very old male *A. palumbarius*," while to *A. palumbarius schevedowi* he would assign the specimens from the Ural Mountains recorded by him in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 354.

Of *Astur striatulus*, Ridgway (*A. henshawi*, Nelson), the Museum has a young male procured from California through Mr. Bridges, and another young bird from Sir William Jardine's Collection labelled "Vancouver Island, N.A. (Brown)." My father was not a believer in *A. striatulus*, and its describer wavered about it (cf. 'Auk,' 1884, p. 252). It is a western form of *A. atricapillus*, from which it differs in "having the markings of the underparts so fine as to present a nearly uniform bluish ashy nebulation."

XXXI.—*Notes on the Nesting of some Shetland Birds.*

By ERNEST W. H. BLAGG, M.B.O.U.

I VENTURE to hope that the following notes, comprising the observations made by my friend Dr. Percy Rendall and myself during a visit paid to the Shetlands in the summer of 1892, may not be devoid of interest to readers of 'The Ibis,' inasmuch as there is already a considerable difference in the Avifauna of the district now as compared with the time when Dr. Saxby wrote his well-known work. We visited the Shetlands in the height of the breeding-season, namely, the latter part of May and the early part of June, with the especial object of seeing, in their nesting-haunts, birds of several species which it is either impossible or difficult to meet with further south; and I may say that on the whole we had every reason to be satisfied with our visit. Its success was in no small degree due to the kindness of my friend Mrs. Cameron, of Garth, who most obligingly furnished us with letters of introduction to landowners and other persons of influence in the district. To Mr. George Bruce, of Sand Lodge, and Captain MacFarlane, of Guendale House, we are also especially grateful, for their extreme kindness and courtesy in acting, as they did, as our hosts and guides in an unknown land.

I shall not waste time in describing the position of the various islands we visited, and, for reasons which will be sufficiently obvious to my readers, I shall not minutely